

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 13, 2003. Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 21-23 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 9-11, 15-17, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, stating the specification does not describe how to individually append meta data. In addition, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, stating that the recitations “individually appended” and “the data” render the claims indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims to, among other things, delete the word “individually” and to more clearly define “data” in the claims. Applicants believe that these rejections under Section 112 have been obviated, and their withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 9-12, and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,609,123 (Cazemier et al.), and rejected Claims 4-8, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cazemier et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,941 (Rowe et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the proposed combination of the cited prior art at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a data management system for managing data by appending meta data for a data search to managed data that includes a means for accepting a user's selection of the managed data to which the meta data is to be appended, a means for accepting the user's selection of the types of contents of the managed data, and a means for providing candidates of meta data according to the types selected by the user, the candidates to be appended as meta data being prepared in advance in correspondence with the types of contents of data to be managed. The apparatus also includes a means for accepting the user's selection of meta data to be appended to the selected data from the provided candidates of meta data, and a means for saving the selected data and the selected meta data in association with each other.

Among the notable features of Claim 1 is that candidates to be appended as meta data are prepared in advance in correspondence with the types of contents of data to be managed. Support in the specification for this feature can be found at least from page 17, line 7, to page 22, line 2. When a user selects the types of content of managed data such as, for example, ceremonial occasions, growth records of children, videos captured on trips, and the like, the candidates of meta data suitable for the types of content of the managed data are provided and the user can select meta data among the candidates. Since meta data candidates are provided, even an end user who has no expert knowledge about the appending of meta data and data search techniques can easily and efficiently append meta data. In addition, a user who has expert knowledge can efficiently append meta data. Furthermore, the expression form of meta data can be standardized and simplified, thus improving search efficiency.

Cazemier et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a query engine and method for querying data using a meta data model. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Cazemier et al. that would teach or suggest that candidates to be appended as meta data are prepared in advance in correspondence with the types of contents of data to be managed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that, at least for this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over Cazemier et al.

Independent Claims 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 include the same feature that candidates to be appended as meta data are prepared in advance in correspondence with the types of contents of data to be managed, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

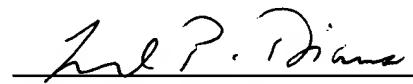
A review of the other art of record, including Rowe et al., has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application, including new Claims 21-23, depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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